

into a plurality of frequency bands such that bandwidths of the bands are broader for progressively higher frequency bands and each frequency band has a corresponds energy level, setting an allowable noise level on a band-by-band basis in accordance with the energy level of each frequency band, including setting the allowable noise level for a given energy level progressively higher for progressively higher frequencies, and quantizing the components of each band with a number of this corresponding to a difference in level between the energy of each frequency band and the preset allowable noise level, including adjusting the number of bits allocated upon quantizing according to the allowable noise level.--

[illegible]

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An early and favorable examination on the merits is
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP



Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27,213

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